



Focus on

# Public Participation Grants

from Ecology's Solid Waste & Financial Assistance Program

## Grants Support People's Involvement

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The Public Participation Grant program is made possible by Washington's Model Toxics Control Act. These grants make it easier for citizens to be involved in two types of waste issues:

- Cleanup of hazardous-waste sites.
- Carrying out the state's solid- and hazardous-waste management priorities. The highest priority is reducing the amount of waste created.

## What Should the Grant Projects Accomplish?

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Public participation grant projects should motivate people to change their behavior and take action that will improve the environment. Past projects have helped people understand and comment on hazardous-waste site cleanup proposals, shop for products that reduce waste, and use less hazardous substances in their businesses.

Successful projects educate people. They create awareness of the causes and the costs of pollution. They stimulate people to assess their behavior and recognize the effect their individual actions have on the environment. They provide strategies and methods for solving environmental problems.

The Department of Ecology emphasizes projects that prevent pollution and produce measurable benefits to the environment.

## Who Can Qualify?

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Grants can go to not-for-profit public-interest organizations or to groups of three or more unrelated individuals. Businesses, government agencies, Indian tribes and universities do not qualify.

Not-for-profit groups encouraged to apply include environmental coalitions, community clubs, environmental-education groups, neighborhood associations, business and trade associations, labor or worker-health/safety organizations, citizens who live in the path of potential contamination from hazardous-waste cleanup sites, ethnic or minority societies, outdoor enthusiasts, professional or fraternal societies and service clubs.



## **What Project Costs Do These Grants Cover?**

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A grant may be used to pay for technical experts who help people understand hazardous-waste site cleanup issues. It can cover the costs of holding meetings, workshops and other events that inform people and motivate them to change their behavior. It can support printing and distributing reports, brochures and other materials, and renting equipment and buying supplies. The program guidelines explain this in more detail.

A grant may NOT be used to pay for independent sampling, product research and development, legal action, lobbying activities, or capital items such as furniture, machinery, or computers.

## **Money Available**

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Based upon current revenue forecasts, an estimated \$900,000 may be available for the 2005-07 biennial-funding cycle. Grants will be awarded in amounts from \$1,000 to \$60,000 per fiscal year or up to \$120,000 per biennium. There is no requirement for “matching funds,” but groups should expect to invest resources in the project.

## **When Can I Apply?**

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Ecology accepts applications for public participation grants during an annual application period. People on the public participation grants mailing list will be notified by mail when the application period opens.

The application period for the 2005-07 funding cycle runs from Wednesday, September 1, 2004, through Monday, November 1, 2004. Applications must be received at the Department of Ecology’s Headquarters building by 5 p.m., Monday, November 1, 2004. The Headquarters building is at 300 Desmond Drive in Lacey. Postmarks do not qualify.

## **For More Information**

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If you have questions or would like further information about the grant program, call: 1-800-RECYCLE or go to our Web site and download an application packet visit <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/biblio/0407013.html>